

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO DR. MILDRED M.
ALLEN

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2002

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Dr. Mildred M. Allen, a leading advocate in the mental health field, who has dedicated the past 17 years to making the Fordham-Tremont Community Mental Health Center a viable and effective mental health facility that performs at a superior level.

Dr. Allen was born in Guayanilla, Puerto Rico, where she lived until graduation from the University of Puerto Rico. Here, she earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree and went on to obtain a Masters of Social Work, a Masters in Public Administration, and a Doctorate in Art and Science from New York University. Armed with this extensive education and training, Dr. Allen went on to play a pivotal role in New York's mental health arena.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Allen has been a key participant in numerous state, national, and global conferences on mental health. In 1985 and 1987, she was a panelist at the World Congresses in Mental Health held in England and Egypt, respectively. Dr. Allen's contributions to mental health public administration include the first city-wide conference on Domestic Violence which she organized in 1985. In 1986, Governor Cuomo appointed her to the Manhattan Children's Psychiatric Center Board of Visitors. She continues to be an active member, and often officer, of many key boards that focus on various aspects of mental health. Dr. Allen's concern for the Puerto Rican community, particularly its youth, led her to create the Hispanic Advocacy and Resource Center, Inc. in order to facilitate the adoption of Puerto Rican children and provide support to families. She also went on to co-found the Puerto Rican Empowerment Partnership Corp., a non-profit organization focused on improving the mental and social welfare of Puerto Ricans living in New York State.

Clearly, Dr. Allen will leave an undeniable mark on the world of mental health and has directly impacted the lives of an untold number of people. She is described as a truly kind and dynamic woman whose unyielding spirit inspires those around her. She has spent most of the last two decades in my district, sharing her gift and leading the Fordham-Tremont Community Mental Health Center to even greater success, with the support of an outstanding staff.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. Mildred Allen for her illustrious and distinguished career and in thanking her for her unceasing passion.

H.R. 3343

HON. TED STRICKLAND

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 3, 2002

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken on the floor on many occasions about the damage brought to our nation's energy security as a result of the privatization of the United States Enrichment Corporation in July of 1998. Through the thorium cleanup legislation before us today, I am pleased Congress will take out an insurance policy to ensure that we have the capacity to produce the nuclear fuel needed to supply our nation's nuclear power reactors in the event of supply interruptions. That insurance policy authorizes the Secretary of Energy to carry out necessary activities at the Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Piketon, Ohio to maintain our country's uranium enrichment capability. Such activities include placing 3 million Separative Work Units (SWU) of capacity on cold standby at the Piketon, Ohio facility.

I am pleased that the Speaker of the House, the Under Secretary of Energy Bob Card, and the Energy and Commerce Committee were able to work together to craft this legislation. I note that legislation to authorize Cold Standby at the Portsmouth plant was included as an amendment to the "Energy Advancement and Conservation Act of 2001" (H.R. 2587) during mark up in the Energy and Commerce Committee, but it was stripped in the Rules Committee and was not ruled in order as part of the package of amendments considered on the floor during debate on H.R. 4. I am pleased that there is bipartisan agreement on authorizing Cold Standby.

Today, over 20 percent of our nation's electricity supply comes from nuclear power. While there is general agreement that we should not be dependent on foreign supplies for our energy requirements, our country's nuclear fuel imports have increased dramatically in a few short years. Our nation now depends on imports for approximately 77 percent of the nuclear fuel that powers our nation's nuclear powered electricity plants. U.S. utilities require 11.0 million SWU of enrichment services each year; approximately 8.5 million SWU is imported and the remainder is produced at the Paducah, Kentucky plant operated by USEC. Approximately 5.5 million SWU comes from Russia as part of the US-Russian Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) Agreement, and 3.0 million SWU are imported from European producers.

The Portsmouth uranium enrichment plant was shuttered by USEC, Inc. in June 2001, three years ahead of the earliest closure date agreed to in the "Treasury Agreement." The Treasury Agreement was intended to assure post-privatization compliance by USEC with the statutory requirements contained in the USEC Privatization Act of 1996, including the obligations to maintain a reliable and economic source of domestic uranium enrichment

services. The Treasury Agreement also was intended to see that operation of the Department of Energy's two uranium enrichment plants continued until December 31, 2004 or until new, more efficient laser based technology is deployed.

USEC terminated its laser-based technology development less than a year after privatization, and today it has no credible prospects for deploying new technology for the foreseeable future.

Indeed, NRC and industry reports reveal that USEC's finances are precarious at best. The USEC operated Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Paducah, Kentucky presently operates at a deficit, and there is widespread concern that USEC management will close this plant, leaving the U.S. completely dependent on foreign sources of fuel. I urge the Administration to prevent our nation from losing its entire enrichment industry and to take the steps needed to promote the deployment of competitive centrifuge technology at both Portsmouth and Paducah. It is ironic that 3 years ago the U.S. was in a position to be fully self-reliant for its own nuclear fuel supply and today we are on the verge of losing that capability.

A single, uneconomic enrichment plant and no foreseeable prospects for new enrichment technology is not what Congress intended when it authorized privatization of USEC. I note that the Energy Department has sent the Energy and Commerce Committee draft language providing the Secretary with the authority to operate the gaseous diffusion plants and to sell low enriched uranium in order to meet domestic requirements. I believe that once the Energy and Commerce Committee has had the chance to evaluate the proposed framework for assuring domestic enrichment supply, there will be support to take the additional steps to begin to repair the damage caused the USEC Privatization.

There are a number of significant policy concerns associated with USEC's premature closing of the Portsmouth enrichment plant and the absence of replacement technology coming on-stream in the interim. Specifically, these challenges are:

(1) Loss of approximately one-half of the U.S. capability to produce enriched uranium;

(2) Increased dependence on the Russian HEU Agreement such that a disruption could result in USEC's inability to meet its obligations. This raises both energy security concerns at home and national security concerns abroad with respect to enrichment and plutonium recycling (for example, the U.S. committed to supply Japan, South Korea and Taiwan with enriched uranium as an incentive to avoid use of plutonium based fuels for electricity generation);

(3) The U.S. government has liabilities and obligations under Sections 3108 and 3109 of the USEC Privatization Act to honor all sales contracts entered into by USEC prior to the date of privatization in the event USEC fails to fulfill its obligations;

(4) Today's trend toward just-in-time fuel procurement further increases vulnerability to supply disruption; and

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